

RURAL DISTRICT OF EAST STOW.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the
East Stow Rural District Council.

12TH JANUARY, 1906.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Ninth Annual Report on the Health of the East Stow Rural District, for the year 1905.

Vital Statistics.

I have estimated the population of this District to the middle of the year 1905 as 5875, and based the following Statistics on that number.

The number of Births registered was 138 (70 boys and 68 girls); which gives a Birth Rate of 23.4 per 1000, compared with 27.1 last year, and an average of 27.4 for the previous nine years.

The Birth Rate for the Thedwastre District was 26.7 per 1000.

There were 90 Deaths registered during the year, viz.: 38 males and 52 females.

Thirteen of these Deaths occurred in the Workhouse and of these one was of a person belonging to Stowmarket, and six of persons coming from the Thedwastre District; deducting these seven from outside Districts, we get the corrected number for East Stow of 83, which gives a Death Rate of 14.1 per 1000; compared with 12.0 per 1000 last year, and an average of 14.3 for the previous seven years.

The Death Rate for the Thedwastre District was 16.0 per 1000.

Of the total number of Deaths, 20 were of infants under 1 year, giving an Infant Mortality of 144 per 1000 Births; compared with 112 last year, and an average of 110 for the previous nine years. Details of these deaths are given in Table V.

The Infant Mortality for the Thedwastre District was 96.6 per 1000 Births.

There were two Deaths from the 7 principal Zymotic Diseases, both from Diphtheria. This gives a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.3 per 1000; compared with 0.6 per 1000 last year.

The Zymotic Death Rate for the Thedwastre District was also 0.3 per 1000.

Amongst the other Deaths occurring during the year (See Table IV); there were 2 from Phthisis, compared with 5 last year; 7 from Cancer, compared with 5 last year; 6 from Diseases of the Respiratory organs, compared with 18 last year; 8 from Heart Disease, compared with 6 last year; and 20 from old age, compared with 8 last year.

The most noticeable feature of this year are the great decrease of the Birth Rate, and the rise in the Death Rate, the latter due chiefly to the large number of infants and very old people who died during this year.

Infant Mortality, 144 per 1000 Births.

Zymotic Death Rate, 0.3 per 1000.

Other Deaths.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 25 notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year, compared with 30 last year, and 37 the year before.

The cases were as follows:—

Diphtheria 9, compared with 8 last year.

Erysipelas 6, compared with 6 last year.

Scarlet Fever 10, compared with 11 last year.

There were no cases of Enteric Fever notified, either in this District, or in Stowmarket or Thedwastre.

The cases of Diphtheria occurred at Combs, Stowupland, Buxhall, Wetherden, and Onehouse.

The cases of Erysipelas occurred at Combs, Wetherden, Old Newton, and Finborough.

The cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at Combs, Stowupland, and Buxhall.

There were 2 Deaths from Diphtheria.

The notifications were the fewest received in any year since 1895, when the Infectious Diseases (notification) Act came into force in this district.

Visits of Inspection.

Special Visits of Inspection were made to all the Villages in the District during the year, altogether 110 visits were made.

Details of these visits will be found under the head of each Village.

Factory Act.

There are 10 Factories and 2 Workshops on the Register, all of which have been visited by the Inspector during the year. No written notices have been served, and no defects reported.

Water Supply.

The soil of this District is chiefly mixed loam and clay and the sub-soil heavy clay, except at Haughley and Wetherden where it is mostly gravel.

Buxhall, Finborough, Gipping, Harleston, Onehouse, Shelland and Wetherden obtain their water for domestic purposes from shallow wells or ponds, more or less polluted.

Haughley obtains its water from a fairly good well in the street, and from ponds (more or less polluted).

Combs from unsafe ponds, shallow wells and 3 ponds made and kept up by the Council.

Old Newton from one deep well in chalk, drainage from fields, polluted ponds and four ponds made and kept up by the Council.

Creeting chiefly from a deep well in chalk, pumped up by windmill and passed through settling tanks.

Stowupland from a few shallow wells, and four ponds made by the Council and the lower part of the Village from the Stowmarket Water Works.

The following details have reference to the various Villages in the District, the numbers in the brackets to the population at the last census, and the area in acres.

BUXHALL (Population 402; Area 2523).

There were 13 Births, compared with 8 last year.

There were 7 Deaths, compared with one last year; one of the Deaths was of an infant under one year of age, and 4 were of persons over 70.

Six cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, all occurring in one family; and one case of Diphtheria.

This Village was visited officially on six occasions, and the following sanitary defects reported:—

The cesspool to cottage (case of Diphtheria) was found to be out of repair, and owner served with usual notice.

The drains to 2 cottages were found to be blocked; the owner was served with the usual notice and the nuisance abated.

In October, complaints were received as to the condition of the water in the Council's ponds; due to the dry season.

COMBS (1212; 2786).

There were 25 Births ; compared with 25 last year.

There were 15 Deaths, compared with 8 last year ; two were of infants under one year, and 9 were of persons over 70 years of age. One Death was caused by Diphtheria and one was Suicide.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, in one family ; one case of Erysipelas ; and three cases (in one family) of Diphtheria, with one Death.

This Villago was officially visited on 29 occasions, chiefly in connection with the water supply ; no sanitary defects being reported in connection with the infectious cases.

In July it was reported two of the Council's ponds required cleaning. In November the land drains to two of the ponds ran dry, and water had to be carted to this district.

CREETING ST. PETER (231; 1313.)

There were 4 Births, compared with 7 last year.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with 1 last year ; one was of an infant under one year of age.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

This village was officially visited on 8 occasions, but no sanitary defects were reported.

The Parish Drains were repaired during the year.

FINBOROUGH MAGNA AND PARVA (445; 367).

There were 9 Births, compared with 8 last year.

There were 8 Deaths, compared with 9 last year ; two were of infants under one year of age, and four were of persons over 70.

One case of Erysipelas was notified.

These villages were officially visited on several occasions but no sanitary defects were reported.

The water supply to 2 new cottages was analysed and found to be very good, and the council granted the necessary certificate.

GIPPING (39; 1104).

There was 1 Birth, and no Death, compared with none of either last year or the year before. Also no infectious diseases were notified.

HARLESTON (64; 615).

There was one Death, but no Birth ; compared with two Births and two Deaths last year.

The Death was of an infant under one year of age.

No Infectious Disease was notified and no insanitary conditions were reported.

HAUGHLEY (733; 2485).

There were 19 Births, compared with 18 last year.

There were 9 Deaths, compared with 8 last year ; one was of an infant under one year of age and 4 were of persons over 70.

Two of the Deaths were caused by Accidents and one was due to Phthisis.

There were no cases of Infectious Disease notified.

This Village was officially visited on various occasions and complaints were reported, as to the condition of the open drains in the Street, causing a nuisance during the hot weather. The Council ordered them to be washed down twice a week with disinfectants.

OLD NEWTON (619; 2348).

There were 12 Births, compared with 25 last year.

There were 8 Deaths, compared with 9 last year ; all the deaths were of persons over 67 and three of them were over 82 years of age.

One case of Scarlet Fever was notified and one of Erysipelas.

This Village was officially visited on several occasions, but no sanitary defects were reported.

The Council's ponds in Chapel Road and Sandford Road were very low in the beginning of the year and the water smelt, but in the summer, when they were cleaned, there was a good supply in all the ponds, which continued till the end of the year.

ONEHOUSE (99; 898).

There were 5 Births, compared with 4 last year.

There was one Death (due to Phthisis), compared with one last year.

One case of Diphtheria was notified, on visiting this case no sanitary defects were reported.

SHELLAND (89; 540).

There were 4 Births, compared with 3 last year; and there have been no Deaths for the last 2 years.

No Infectious disease was notified, and no insanitary conditions reported.

WETHERDEN (400; 1830).

There were 12 Births, compared with 10 last year.

There were 8 Deaths, compared with 9 last year; five were of infants under one year of age, (a very large proportion), and only one was of a person over 70.

One Death was caused by Diphtheria.

One case of Diphtheria and one case of Erysipelas were notified.

With regard to the case of Diphtheria, a nuisance was caused in the adjoining property, through the overflowing of a cesspool, the owner was served with usual notice and the nuisance since abated.

In July it was reported that there was a good supply of water in the Council's pond, but it required cleaning.

UNION WORKHOUSE (147).

There were 5 Births, compared with 5 last year.

There were 13 Deaths, compared with 16 last year; two were of infants under one year of age, and four were of persons over 70.

Two of the Deaths were caused by Phthisis.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

STOWUPLAND (1326; 2840).

There were 29 Births, compared with 45 last year.

There were 18 Deaths, compared with 18 last year; five were of infants under one year of age, and 7 were of persons over 70.

One case of Erysipelas was notified, one case of Scarlet Fever, and three cases of Diphtheria.

This village was visited officially on 33 occasions and the following sanitary defects were reported:—

Nuisance caused by escape of sewer gas (in cottage where diphtheria occurred), suggested ventilating shaft in street sewer.

A Nuisance caused by blood from slaughter-house running into ditches, the owner was served with notice to abate. The ditch has been filled up and the slaughter-house removed from the district.

Two cottages in Greeting Road, drains defective, cesspool full, owner served with notice to connect into sewer, and order has since been given to have the work done.

It was also suggested that all the houses in Victoria Road should be connected into the sewer, and notices to that effect were served on all the owners.

In July it was reported that two of the Council's ponds were very low and the water smelt, on inspection it was decided to have all the ponds cleaned out; in September it was necessary to cart water to the upper part of the Village and this had to be continued till the end of the year. In November one of these Ponds was enlarged and cleaned out, and in December Stedman's pond had to be cleaned out, and the land drains relaid, and it was reported that all the ponds were filling with water.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the willing help I have received from the Sanitary Inspector, and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the considerate manner in which they have always received my suggestions.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. W. LOW, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I shows the estimated population, and Birth and Death Rates for the last 10 years.

Table III shows the cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and particulars as to age.

Table IV shows the causes of, and ages at Death during the year.

Table V gives the details of the Infant Mortality.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.				
				Under 1 year age.		At all Ages.									
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births regisrd.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*			
1895							13.8								
1896			31.5		114		13.2								
1897	6108	168	27.5	19	113	105	17.1	15							
1898	6106	167	27.3	26	153	115	18.8	20	12		103	16.8			
1899	6100	165	27.0	20	121	97	15.7	19	14		83	13.6			
1900	6100	139	22.5	12	86	89	14.5	15	11		78	12.7			
1901	5929	158	26.4	16	101	111	18.7	20	16		95	16.0			
1902	5926	179	30.2	13	86	99	16.7	12	6	1	94	15.8			
1903	5907	159	26.9	17	106	88	14.8	11	8		80	13.5			
1904	5890	160	27.1	18	112	82	13.9	16	11		71	12.0			
Averages for years 1895-1904			27.4		110		15.7					14.3			
1905	5875	138	23.4			90	15.3	13	7		83	14.1			

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) .. 21200.

Total population at all ages at Census of 1901 .. 5926.

Number of inhabited houses 1345.

Average number of persons per house 4.4.

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.				
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.			
		1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65
Diphtheria	8		5	2	1
Erysipelas	2				2
Scarlet Fever ...	8		8		
Totals	18		13	2	3

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards	
Diphtheria and membranous croup	2		2					
Enteritis	1						1	
Phtisis	2					2		2
Other tubercular diseases	2		1			1		
Cancer, malignant disease	7					2	5	
Bronchitis	3	1					2	2
Pneumonia	3					2	1	
Alcoholic Cirrhosis of Liver	1						1	
Premature Birth	6	6						
Heart Diseases	8	2				1	5	2
Accidents	2		1			1		
Suicides	1				1			
Cld Age	20						20	1
All other causes	25	11				3	11	6
All Causes	83	20	4		1	12	46	13

TABLE V.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	8-9 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
ALL CAUSES certified	..	..	10	1	11	3	1	1	3	1	20
Premature Birth	..	..	5			1					
Congenital Defects	..	..		1					1		
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	..	..	3			2	1	1	1		
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..						1	
Other Causes	..	..	..	2					1		

Births in the year, legitimate 138.

Population, estimated to middle of 1905 5875.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 83.

